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Marvel

4th Nov.'94
No 184 80p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

ALL NEW!

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

Thomas Fuzzy Felt offer inside!

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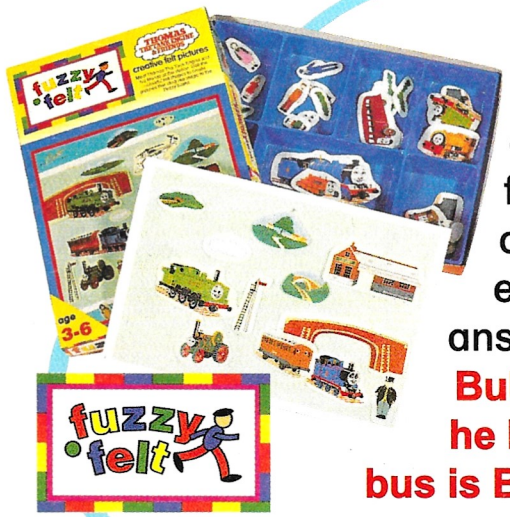
Nature school ✿ Mural ✿ Competition!

ALL AB

Notice Board!

Welcome to another fun packed issue of Thomas the Tank Engine and Friends. We've got some super stories inside! In 'The nature bus', you can find out why the school children are so eager to visit Bulgy the grumpy old bus. After that you'll love reading our 'Nature school' feature. In 'Thomas keeps a secret', the Fat Controller has prepared a special surprise for Thomas and his railway staff, and in 'Well caught' discover how Thomas saves the day. Peep! Peep!

15 Thomas Fuzzy Felt sets to be won!



These colourful felt shapes are just what you need to make up your own Thomas scenes. They're great fun to play with and if you enter our competition, you might be lucky enough to win a set for **free!** Just answer the following question:

Bulgy used to be a railway bus before he became a henhouse! What type of bus is Bulgy! Single or double decker?

Send your answer, with your name and address, on a postcard to: **Thomas Fuzzy Felt competition, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13 - 15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX.** The first 15 correct postcard entries will each win one of our prizes! Entries should arrive no later than November 18th, 1994.

Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees of Fuzzy Felt and Marvel Comics Ltd., and their families. We cannot accept liability for any products lost or damaged in the post.

There is a great Thomas wall clock offer on page 18 and the second part of our book competition on page 19!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**. Jim Galton, Chairman; Michael Z.Hobson; Managing Director; Paul Neary, Editorial Director; Alan O'Keefe, Group Editor; Andy Seddon, Editor; David Paul Boyle, Assistant Editor; Helen Nally, Art Director; Gary Gilbert, Designer; Julie Pickering & Mark Irvine, Production. Office of Publication: 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX. All **THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS** material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 071 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

ABC AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS CONSUMER PRESS

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

OARD!

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20. 'Thomas keeps a secret!'
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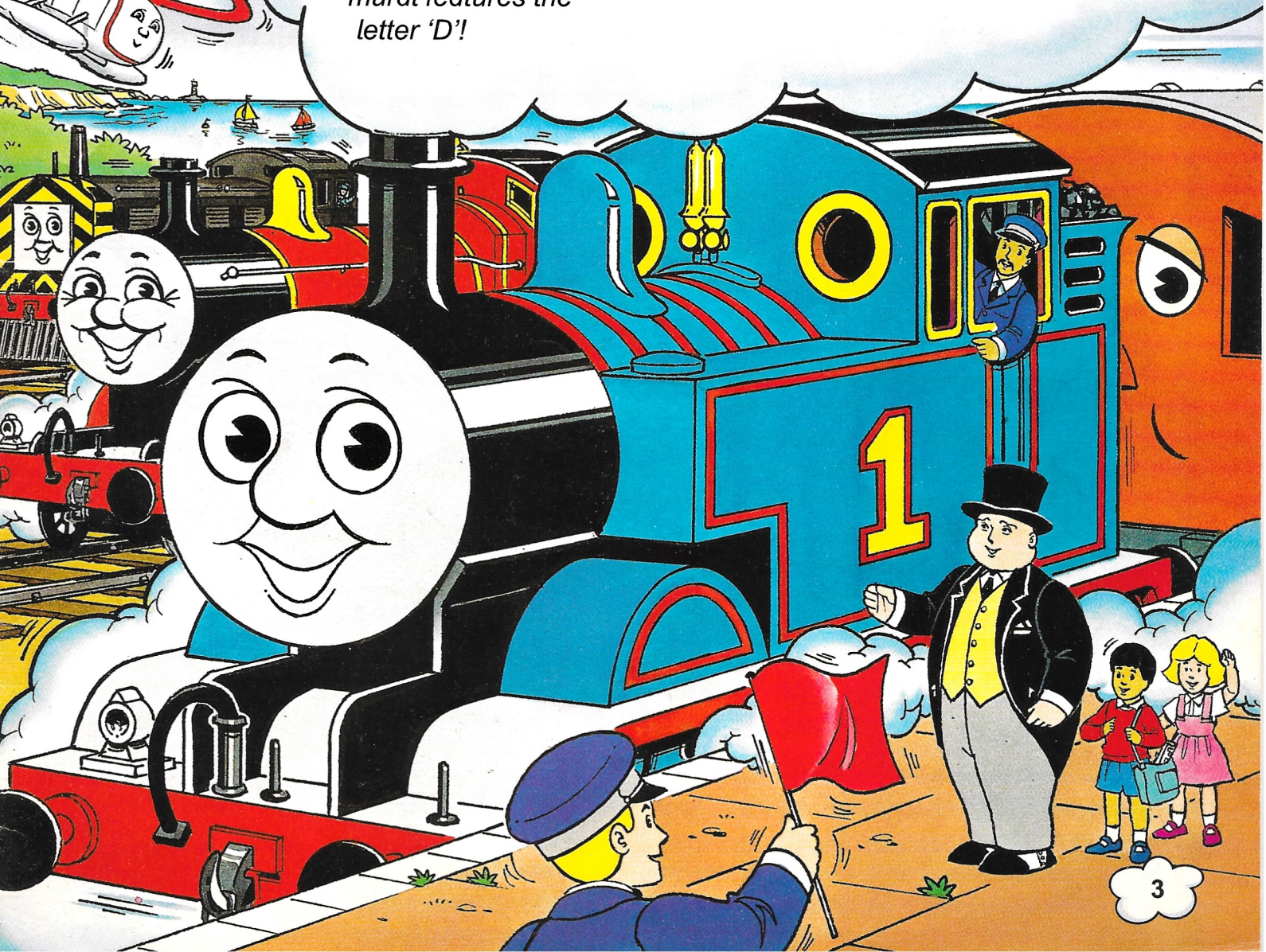
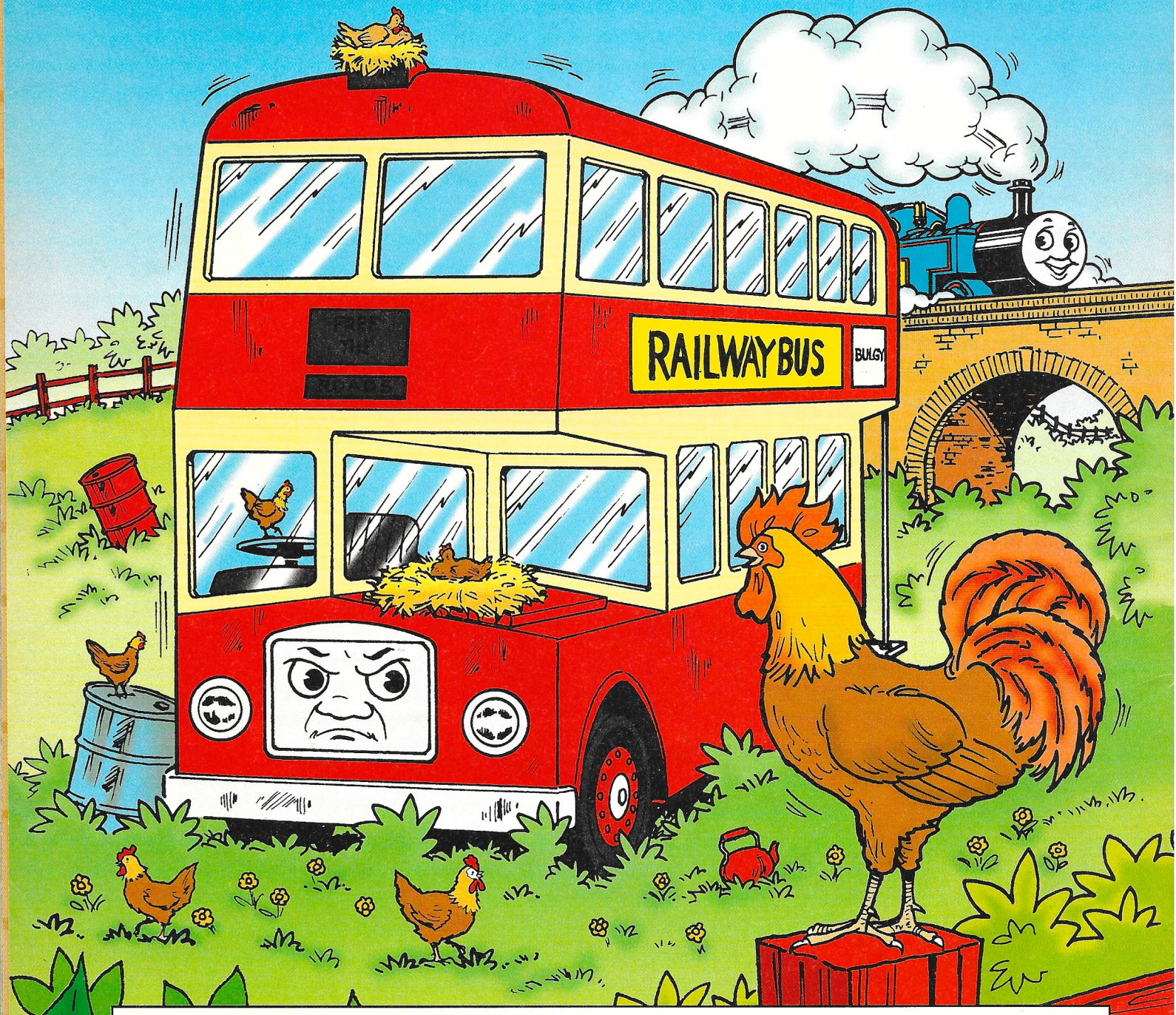


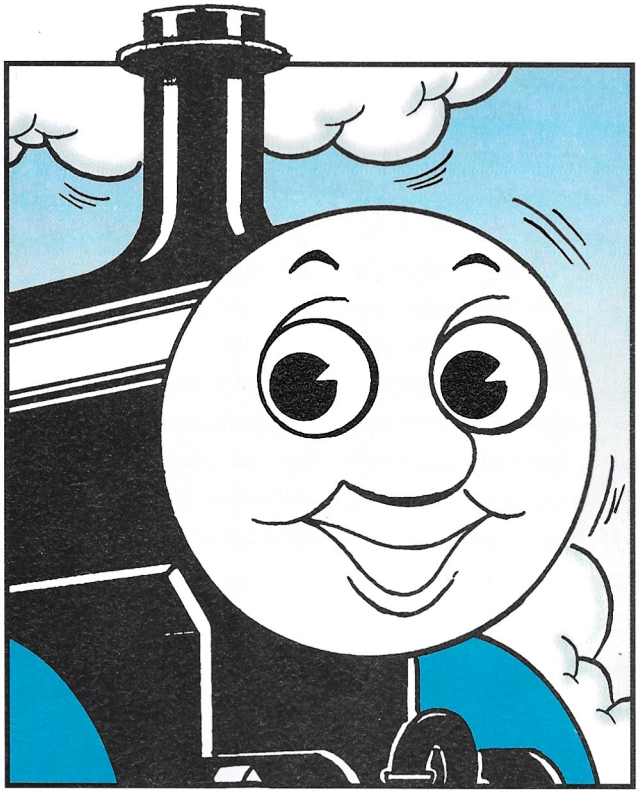
LISTEN AND LEARN STORY

The nature bus!



1. Bulgy the bad-tempered bus stood by a bridge near the railway. He was used as a henhouse because his engine did not work anymore.

2. As Thomas rolled slowly past one day, he heard Bulgy grumbling. "I'm fed-up with chickens. I miss carrying passengers!" Bulgy moaned.

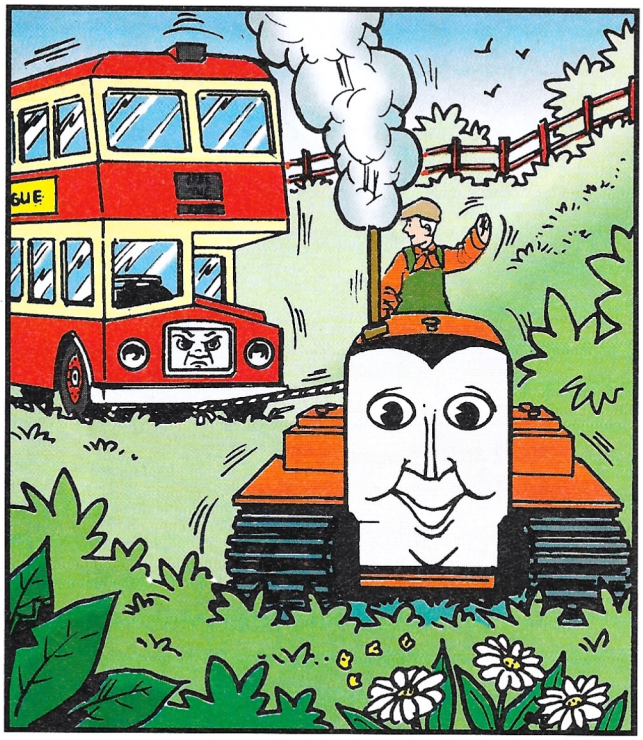


3. “You were only wrecked because you were behaving badly!” replied Thomas. But he felt sorry for Bulgy and wanted to help.

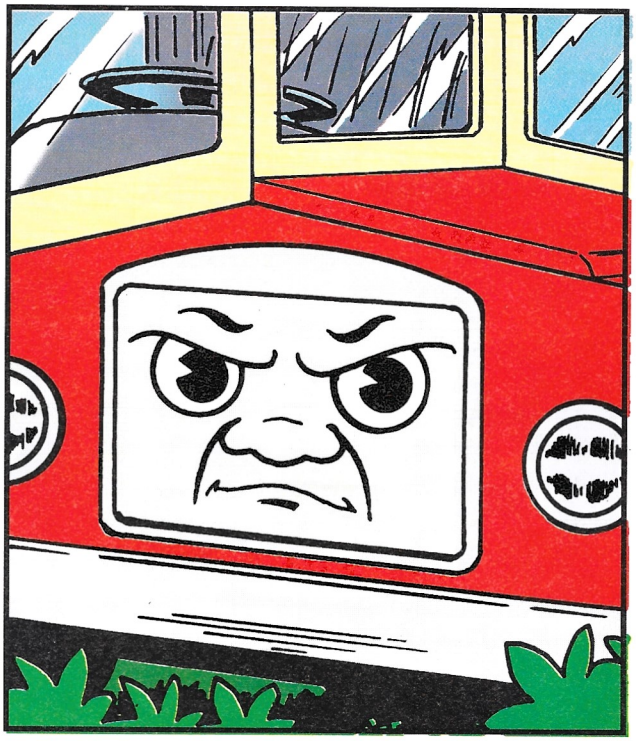
4. Next morning, Thomas took some schoolchildren and their teacher to a country station near Henry’s tunnel. They were going on a nature ramble.

5. But it rained so hard they could not leave the train. Thomas had to take the disappointed children and their teacher back to school.

6. At the station by the school, the teacher spoke to Thomas’s driver. “What a shame the countryside was too wet!” he sighed.



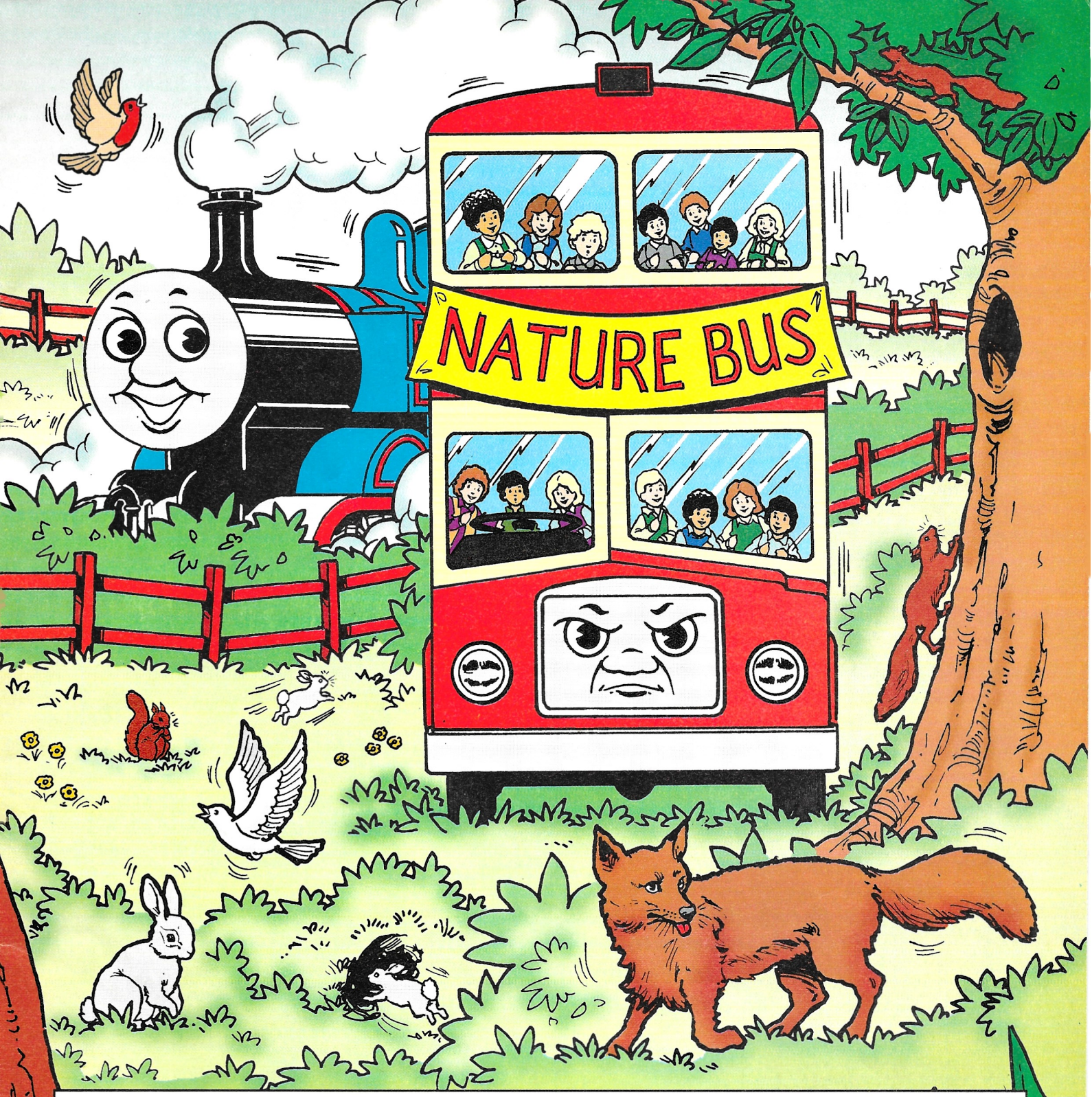
7. Thomas had an idea. He told the Fat Controller who rang the school. A week later, Bulgy was smartened up and towed off by Terence the Tractor.



8. He was taken to Gordon's hill, by a railway siding, near fields and woods. Bulgy was filled with big posters of wild flowers and animals.

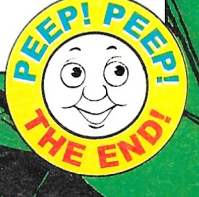
9. Next day, Thomas took the excited children to see Bulgy. "They'll be dry now if it rains," he said. "Bulgy is being really useful, too!"

10. "He's the school's brand new nature-study centre!" said Thomas's driver. The children loved climbing upstairs inside Bulgy.



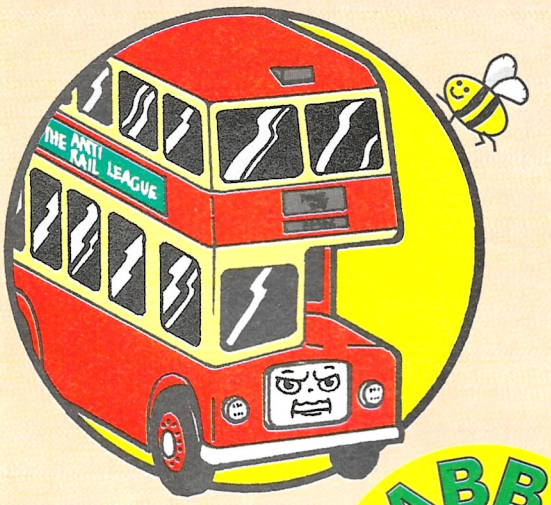
11. While the children ate packed lunches, they were able to watch quietly for animals. They spotted some rabbits and a fox. Then they made notes downstairs. "I can hold nature lessons here for classes each day!" the teacher said when Thomas returned to collect them.

12. Everyone was pleased except Bulgy. "Pah! Having so many children on board gives me a headache!" he groaned. "You are a misery, Bulgy!" said Thomas. "The nature trips will stop in the winter!" "The sooner I'm a henhouse again, the better!" grumbled Bulgy.



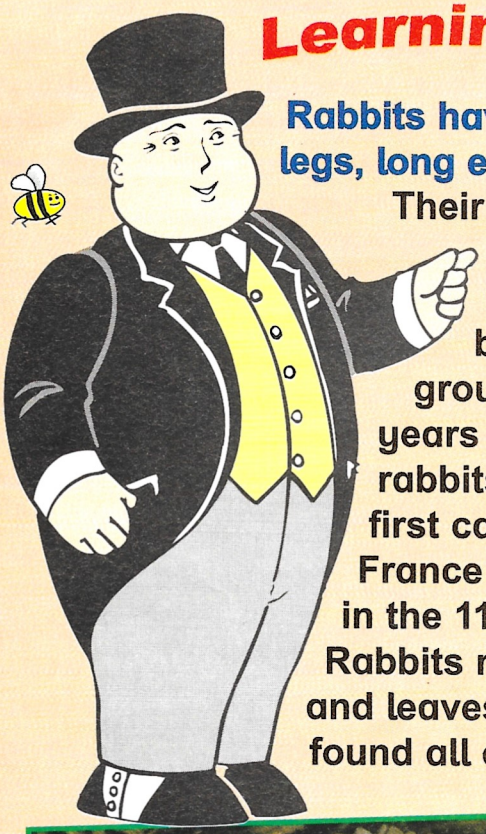
What will you learn when you visit Bulgy's Nature School?

Bulgy's Nature School



Learning about animals:

RABBITS and BIRDS

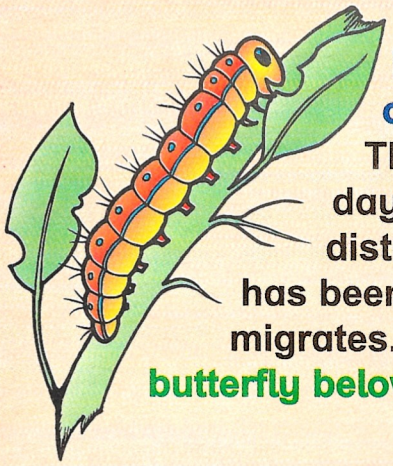


Rabbits have powerful hind legs, long ears and big eyes. Their fur is a browny-grey colour and they live in burrows in the ground. Hundreds of years ago there were no rabbits in Britain, they first came here from France with the Normans in the 11th century. Rabbits mainly eat grass and leaves and are now found all over Britain.

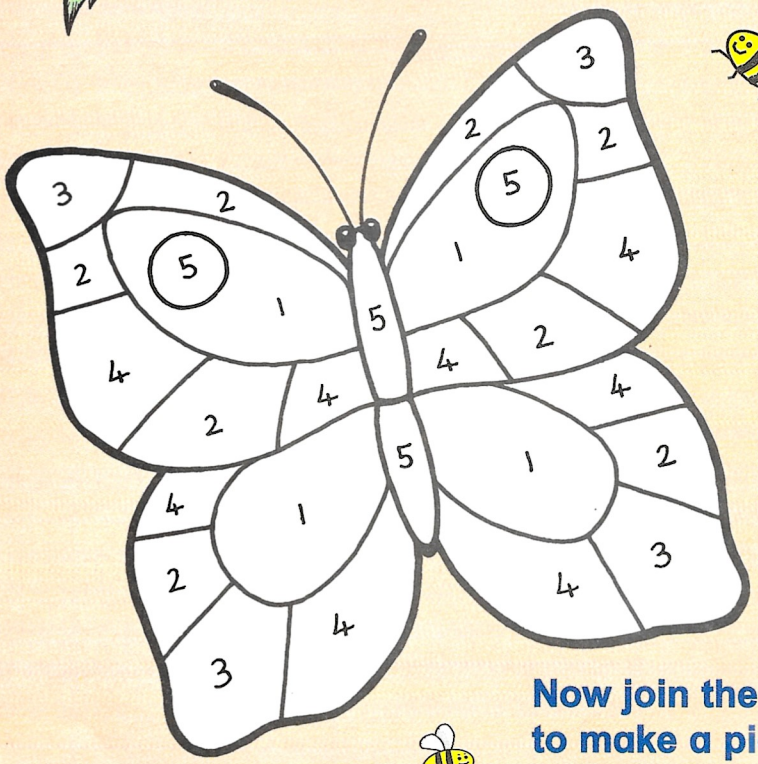
Birds are the only animals that have feathers. Most birds fly, but some, like emus and ostriches, can't fly. Birds usually build nests in trees or hedges, although sometimes birds lay their eggs in burrows. Kingfishers and puffins are two birds that nest in burrows. The smallest bird in Britain is the wren. It is only about 9.5 cm long!

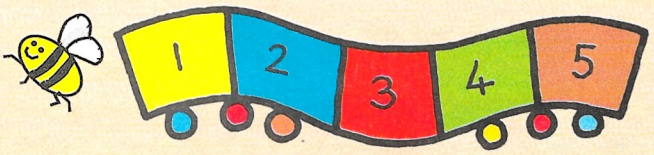
Learning about insects and flowers:

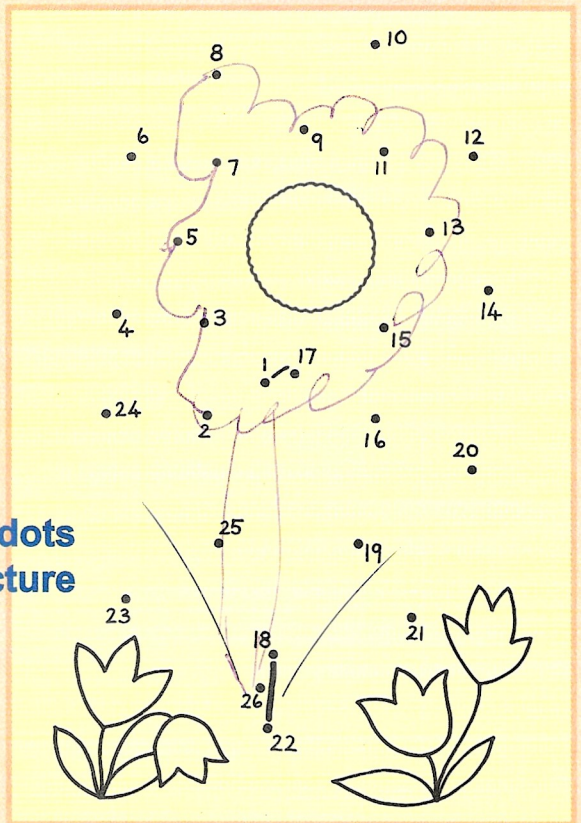
BUTTERFLIES and BLUEBELLS



Butterflies are a large group of brightly coloured insects. They mainly fly during the daytime and often cover huge distances. The milkweed butterfly has been known to cover 2000 miles when it migrates. **Match up the colours in the caterpillar with the butterfly below. See how pretty the butterfly looks!**

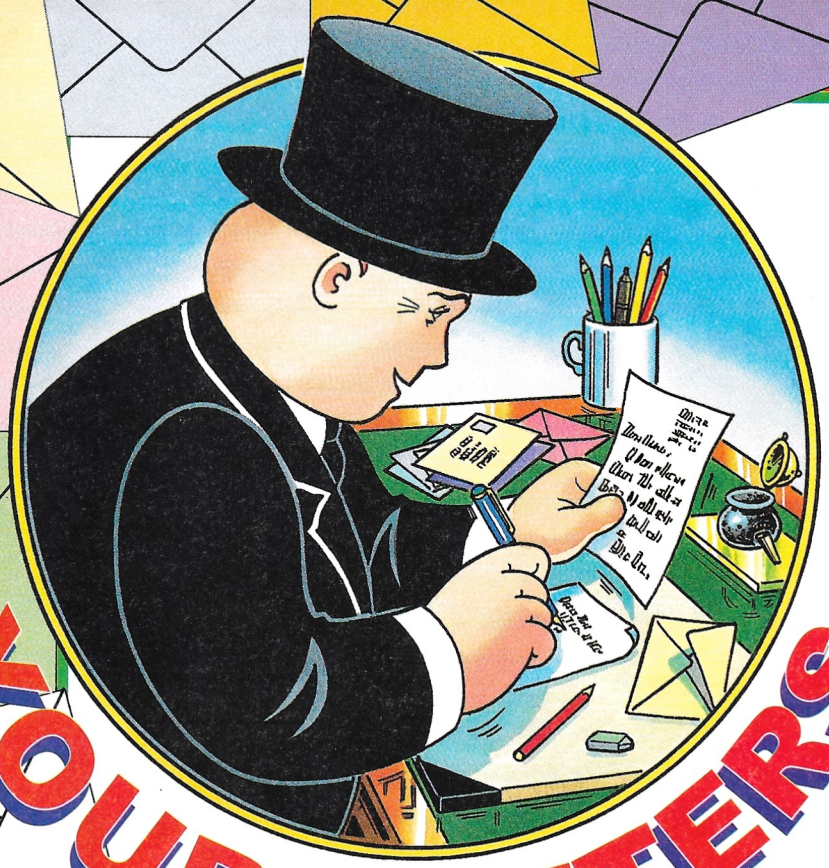






Now join the dots to make a picture of a flower.

Flowers are plants which have coloured petals! There are hundreds of different wild flowers. The bluebell flower is shaped like a drooping church bell and is a rich blue colour! But remember, don't pick wild flowers as it is against the law. Besides, they look prettier left where they're growing.



YOUR LETTERS

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win one of these Thomas Pre-school toys!

STAR LETTER!

LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER!

Dear Fat Controller,
In the story 'Lost in the fog' the ships sounded their fog horns to show where they were. How many lighthouses are there on the Island of Sodor?
Love from **Kevin Nash**, aged 3.

There are two mainland lighthouses, one at Arlesburgh on the west coast and another south of Knapford station. There are also three lighthouses on islands in the Sudrian sea between Knapford harbour and Tidmouth.

WELL TRAINED!

Dear Fat Controller,
How well do your trains run?
Love from **Kenneth Allsop**, aged 4.

My engines keep good time as I organise my railway timetable efficiently. However, occasionally they may be delayed by bad weather or accidents.

OFFICE NAME!

Dear Fat Controller,
Do you have another name and where do you live?
Love from **Lloyd Emery**, aged 3.

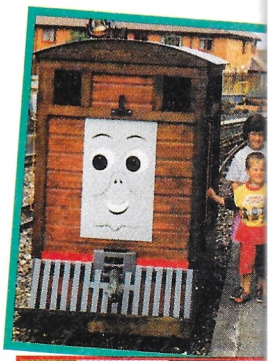
I am officially called Sir Topham Hatt and I live in a very pretty railway cottage near Thomas's branch line.

POST TRAIN!

Dear Fat Controller,
I watch the trains from my window every day and I often see the post train carrying letters and parcels. Does Thomas ever carry parcels or letters?
Love from **Jonathan Heath**, aged 4.

Yes, Thomas regularly pulls his own post train on his branch line. He has to complete several runs per day during the Easter and Christmas seasons.

PHOTO STOP!



Dear Fat Controller,
My sister Laura and I had a ride on the Bure valley railway in Norfolk. When we got to Aylesham station, Toby was there to welcome us!
Love from **David Parry**, aged 3.

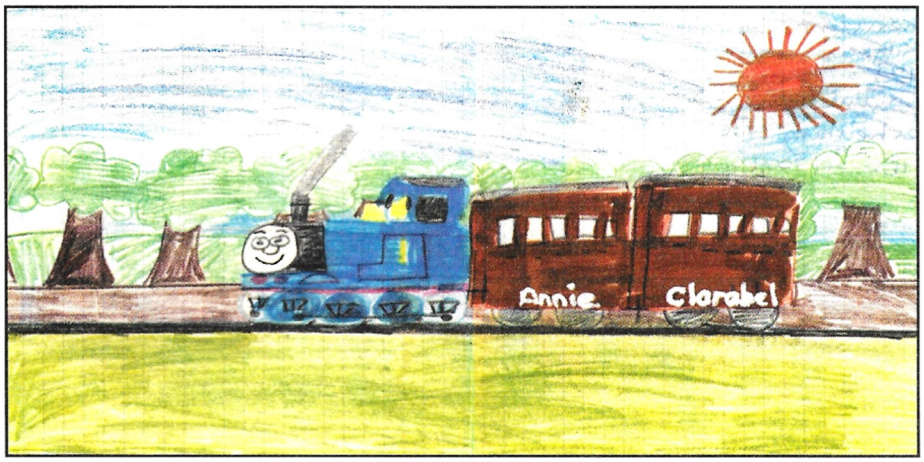
Dear Fat Controller,
This is a photo of me in my bedroom. My daddy painted Thomas on my wall as he is my favourite engine.
Love from **David Snow**, aged 3.

BIRTHDAYS!

Birthday greetings go out to...
Robbie Davis, Greg Wilkinson, Matthew Bevan, Grant Head, Thomas Bott, Kerry Louise Whitehead, Samantha Natalie Ling, Cariad Barker, Matthew Bussey, James Sparks, Matthew Collins, Aaron Rhys Jenkins, Matthew and Christopher Batson, Kyle Garwood and Danny Guerrero.

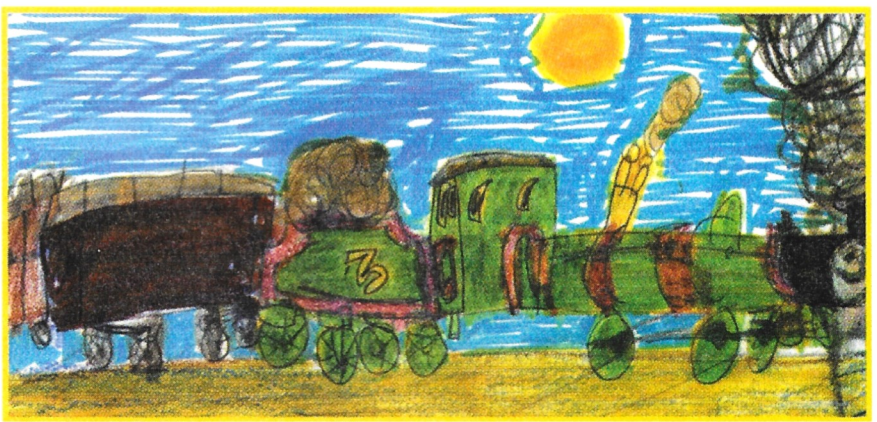
Drawing Board!

Thank you for sending your smashing drawings and pictures to the Fat Controller's Drawing Board!

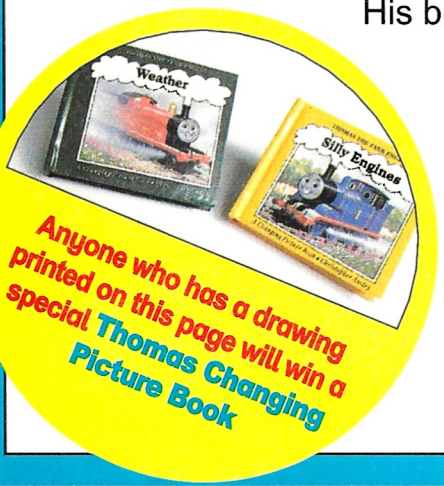


Here's Thomas pulling Annie and Clarabel on his branch line. This cheerful picture was sent to us by **Kerri Ann Kilgour** from Fife, Scotland.

Henry is a very fast and powerful engine. **Elizabeth Coskin**, aged 5, has coloured this picture of Henry speeding past the harbour yard.



James is the only red engine on the Fat Controller's railway. His bright shiny coat has been well coloured by **Robert Jardine**, aged 6.



Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a special Thomas Changing Picture Book

If you would like to have your drawing or painting displayed on this page, then please send your entries to: The Fat Controller's Drawing Board, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX.

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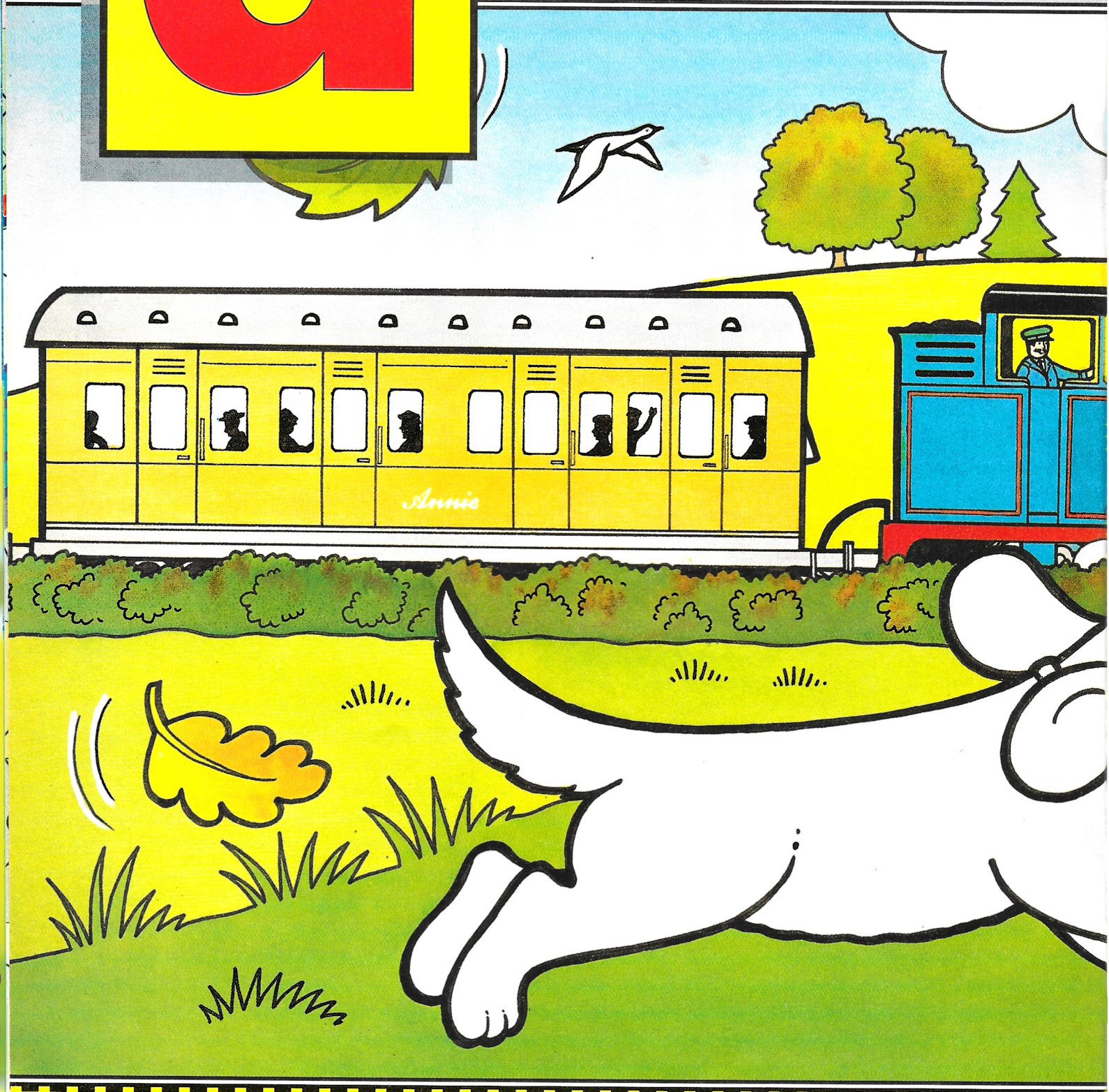


Driver David's dog is racing with Thomas.

Who do you think can go fastest?

Colour in the dog!

Give the dog a name!

How many different leaves a

Which engine can you see?

Who is he pulling?

How many birds can you see

What can you see in the dist

r

e falling?

nce?

This centrespread should be cut out as it forms part of a continuous scene for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom.

A READ ALOUD STORY

PEEP! PEEP!

Well caught!

The Fat Controller's grandchildren, Stephen and Bridget, were staying on the Island of Sodor. One morning, Lady Hatt brought them to the Main Station. The children each carried a big book. As Thomas pulled into the platform, they showed the books to his driver. They were full of small, bright shapes.

"They're our stamp albums," said Stephen. "Grandmother is taking us to a shop in Wellsworth to buy some more stamps to stick in them."

Thomas was puzzled.

"I thought stamps were stuck on letters not stuck in books!" he puffed.

"They are," replied his driver. "But some people like to collect stamps from all over the world!"

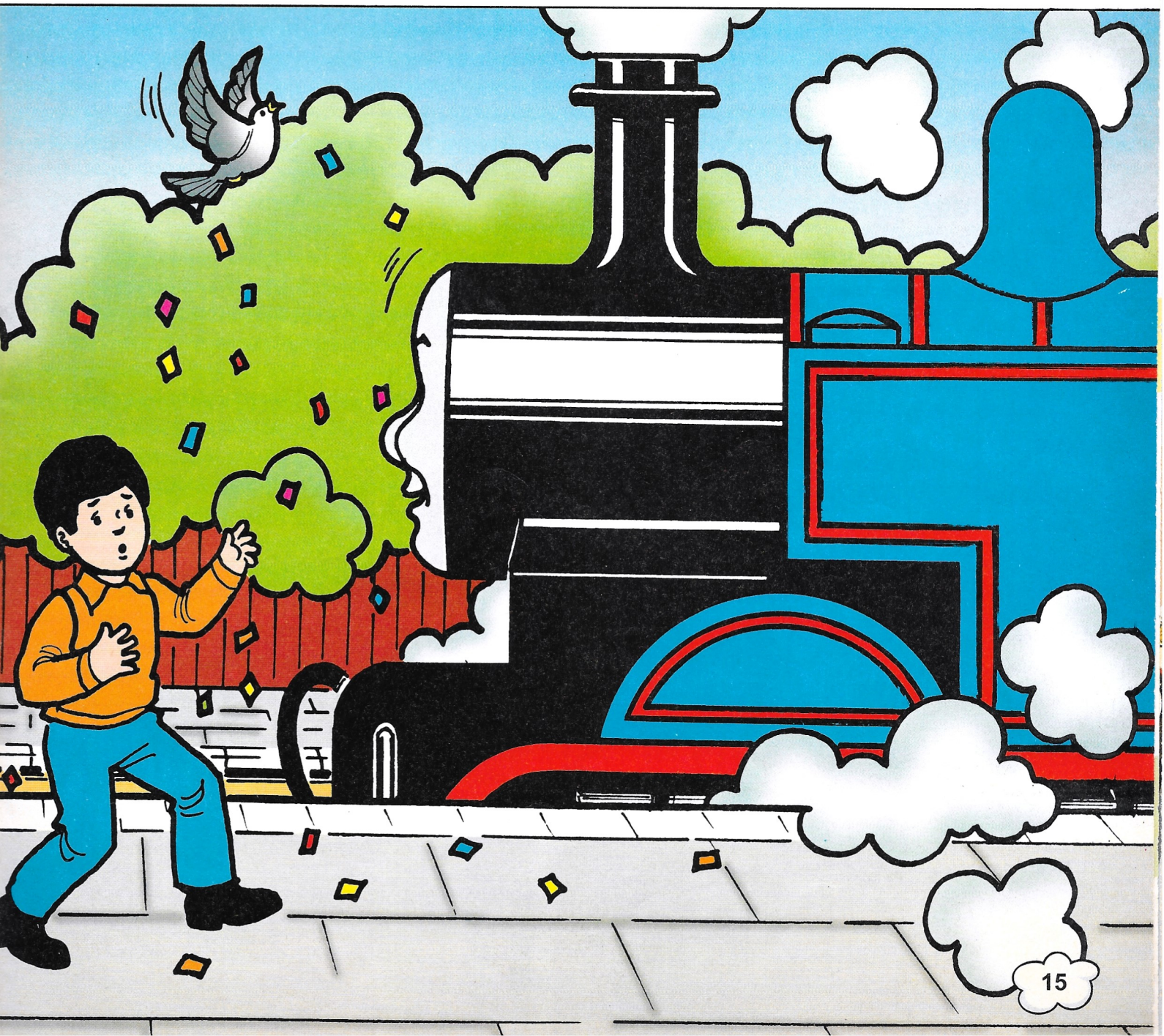
"Sometimes, they're very old and rare!" said Bridget.

"I'll find my best stamp for you," Stephen told the driver.

As he turned the pages of his album, Stephen heard Percy whistle loudly in the yard. PIP-PEEP! It made Stephen jump. He dropped his album and some stamps fell out.

"Oh, no!" he cried.

Thomas's driver caught one stamp in his cap. Another drifted into the cab and Thomas's fireman caught it under his shovel. A third stamp blew into the Fat Controller's office and nearly landed in his cup of tea. At last only one



stamp was missing.

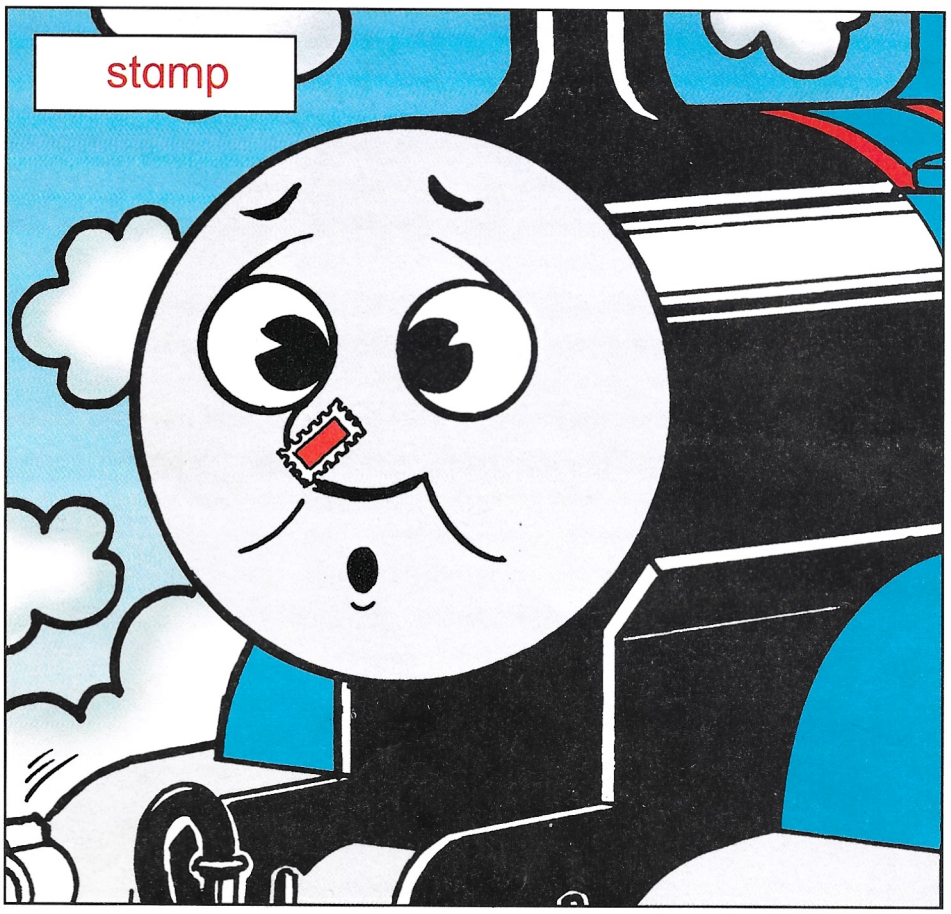
"It's my best one!" said Stephen.

Suddenly, Thomas saw a tiny piece of paper blowing about.

"There it is!" he called.

Everyone began to chase the stamp How they laughed when it landed on Thomas's nose and stuck there.

"It tickles!" said Thomas.



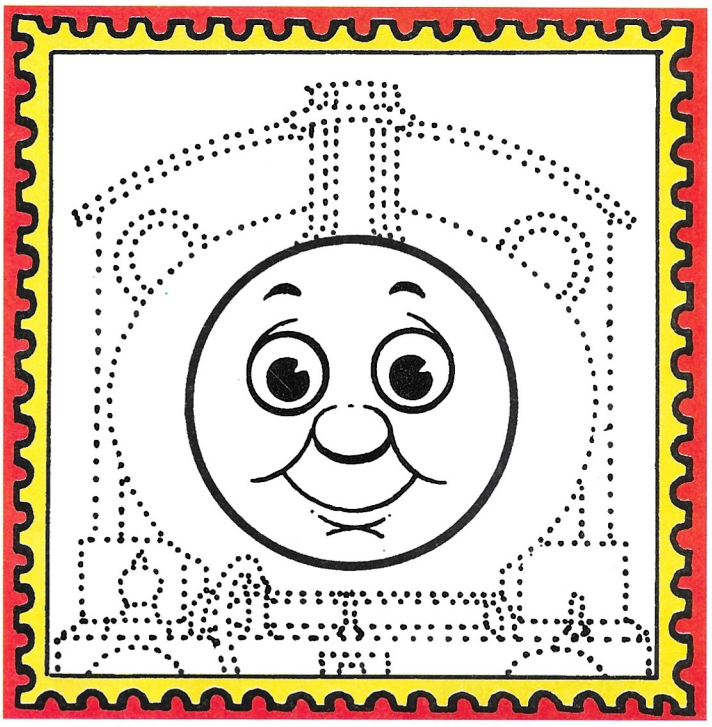
His driver climbed down from the cab and carefully rescued the stamp. Then Stephen put it safely back in his album.

"Well caught, Thomas!" his driver smiled. "I didn't realise you enjoyed collecting stamps too!"

Make your own stamp! Draw over the dotted lines to finish your stamp. You can also finish colouring it too!

Now practise writing stamp!

stamp



Subscribe to Thomas's new magazine!

13 issues for the price of 12!

Subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 6 months (12 issues) and receive the 13th issue absolutely FREE!

I wish to subscribe to Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for 6 months (12 issues & 13th issue **FREE**) for £12.00 (£20.00 overseas) 0045J.

Child's name ..... Address .....

.....

..... Post code ..... Date of birth.....

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £..... made payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.
Please charge £..... to my Visa/Mastercard

Card number ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ Expiry date.....

Card holder's signature .....

Parent's/donor's name Mr/Mrs/Ms ..... Address (if different from child's)

.....

.....Post code .....

Please send to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, PO Box 503, Leicester, LE94 0AD.

Look what's puffing your way in...

Thomas Pre-school toys to be won!

Issue 185 of

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

- A Thomas poster
- Pre-school competition
- Splendid stories
- Out on November 5th 1994!

Decorate your room with Thomas!

Welcome to the third part of our exclusive offer: a unique opportunity to collect a range of hand painted Thomas door plaques, coat pegs, wall clocks and bookends! By using the special order forms in our next two issues, you'll be able to collect this complete range of amazing Thomas bedroom decorations!

In our last issue, you had the chance to order your very own personalised Thomas coat peg! Here, we are offering you the opportunity to send off for a Thomas wall clock! As with the Thomas coat peg, you can have your own name printed on it! What a great way of telling the time!

This brilliant Thomas wall clock is being offered at the special price of £12.99, which includes postage and packaging. To order your Thomas wall clock, complete the form in capital letters, writing your name very clearly. Then send it, with a postal order or cheque for £12.99 made payable to *Ends*, to: ***Thomas wall clock offer, Ends, 31 Ripper's Court, Station Rd., Sible Hedingham, Essex CO9 3PY.*** Your personalised Thomas wall clock will be posted off to you within 7 days of receipt of your order.

ORDER FORM

Please send me ..... (No. required) Thomas wall clock(s) priced £12.99 each.

The name I'd like on my wall clock is:

.....

(please indicate other names if you're ordering more than one wall clock).

I've enclosed a cheque or postal order for £ .....

Name.....Address.....

.....

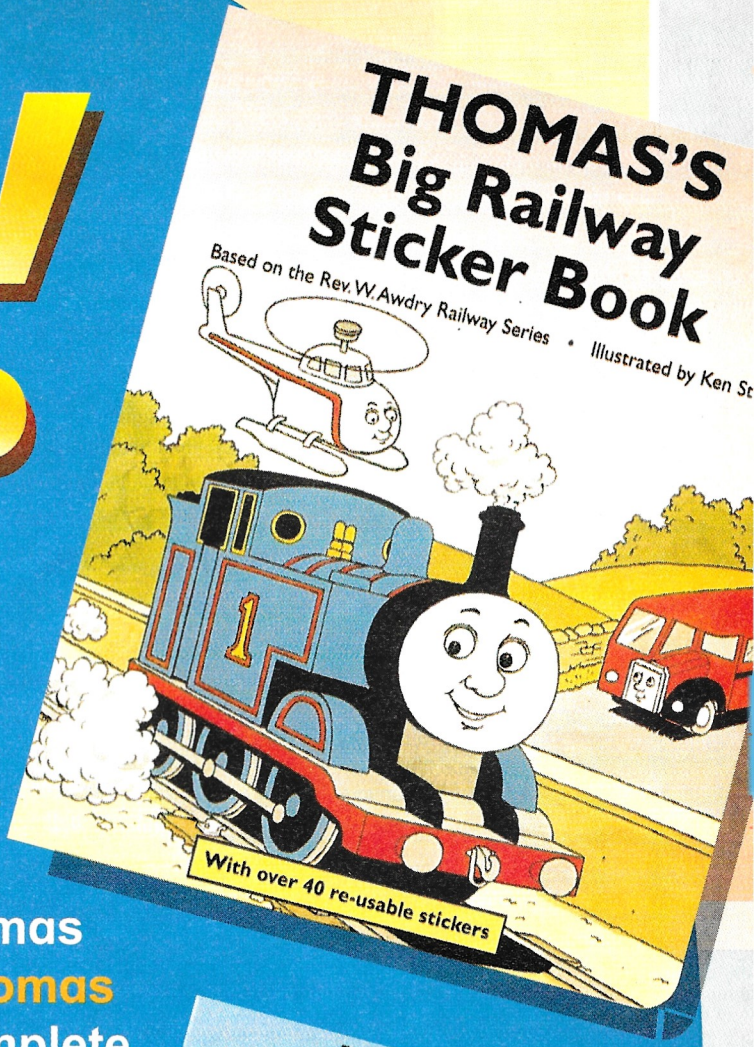
.....

.....Postcode.....

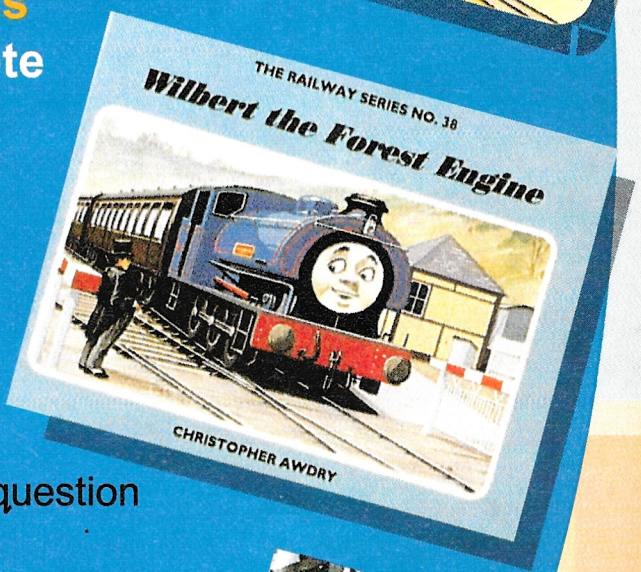
BRITT ALLCROFT

In our next issue, you'll be able to add Thomas bookends to your fabulous collection!

New books to be won!



Welcome to part 2 of our exclusive picture book competition! Our fifteen lucky winners will each receive an amazing set of Thomas books made up of the new **'Thomas Big Railway Sticker Book'** (complete with stickers), the latest **'Thomas Buzzbook'** and **No. 38** of the **'Classic Railway Series'**.

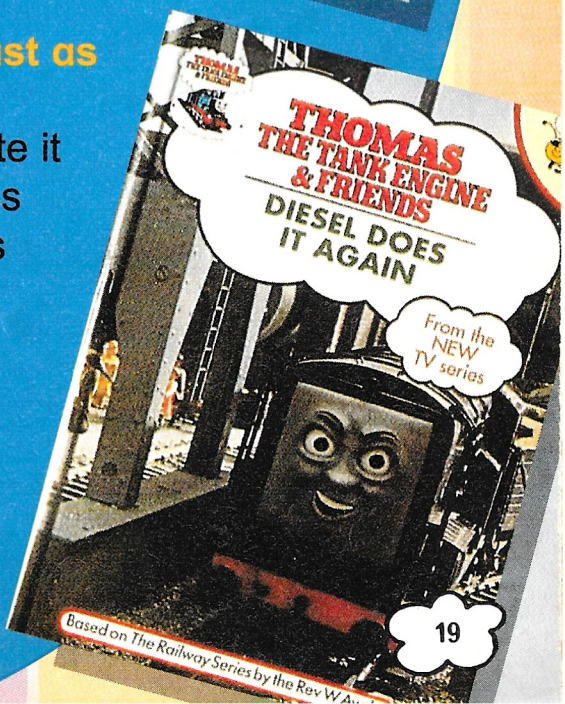


How to enter:

You'll need the token from our last issue if you want a chance of winning a set of these great books. Now, just answer the following question correctly:

Henry is a long, fast engine. He is almost as fast as Gordon. What colour is Henry?

Do you think you know the right answer? Well, write it on a postcard together with your name and address and send it, with the token from the first part of this competition, to: **Thomas Book Competition, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London WC2R 3DX**. All entries must reach us by November 18th!

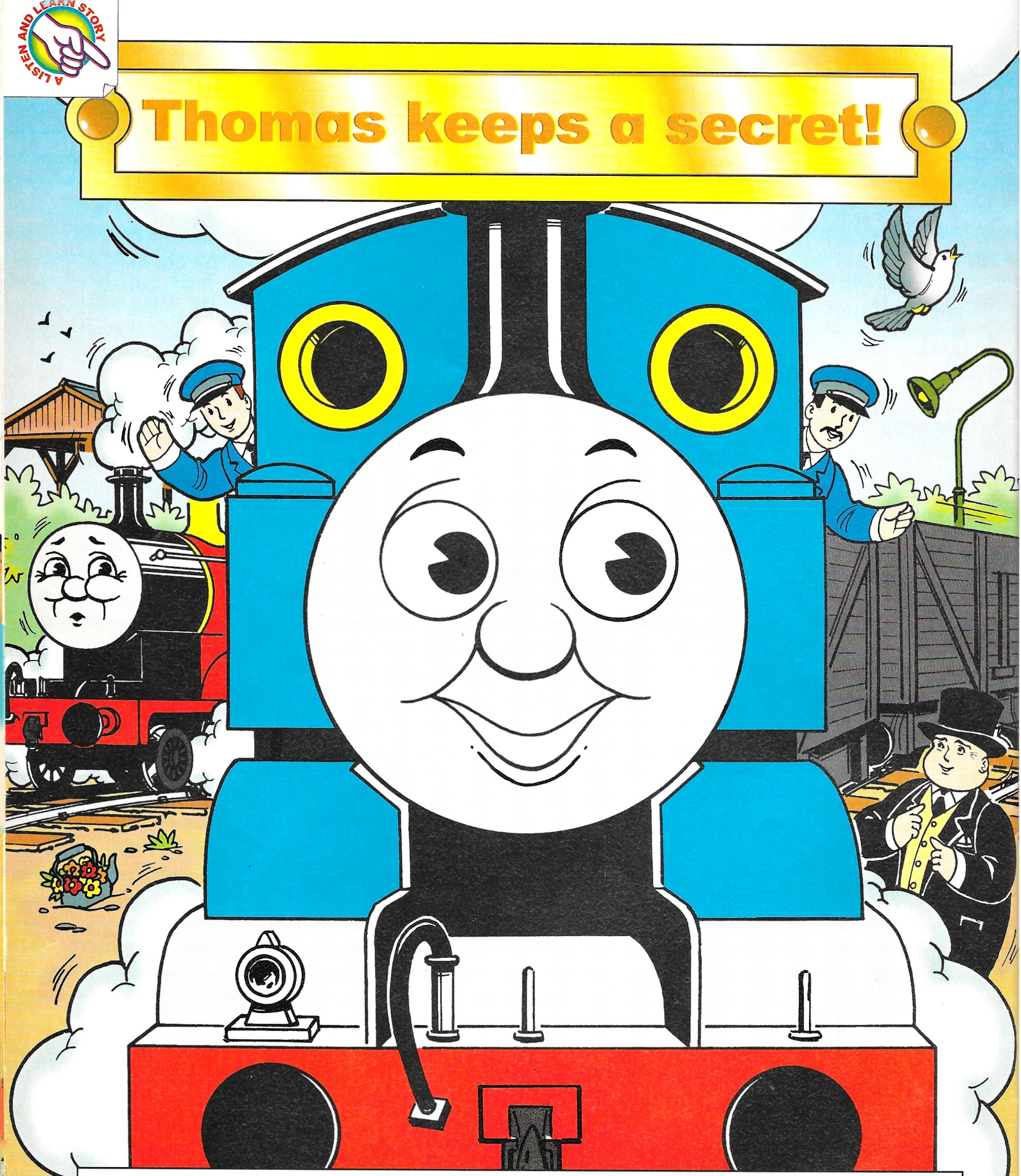


This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of Reed Books Ltd., Marvel Comics Ltd., and any other associated companies. No responsibility can be accepted for any prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Britt

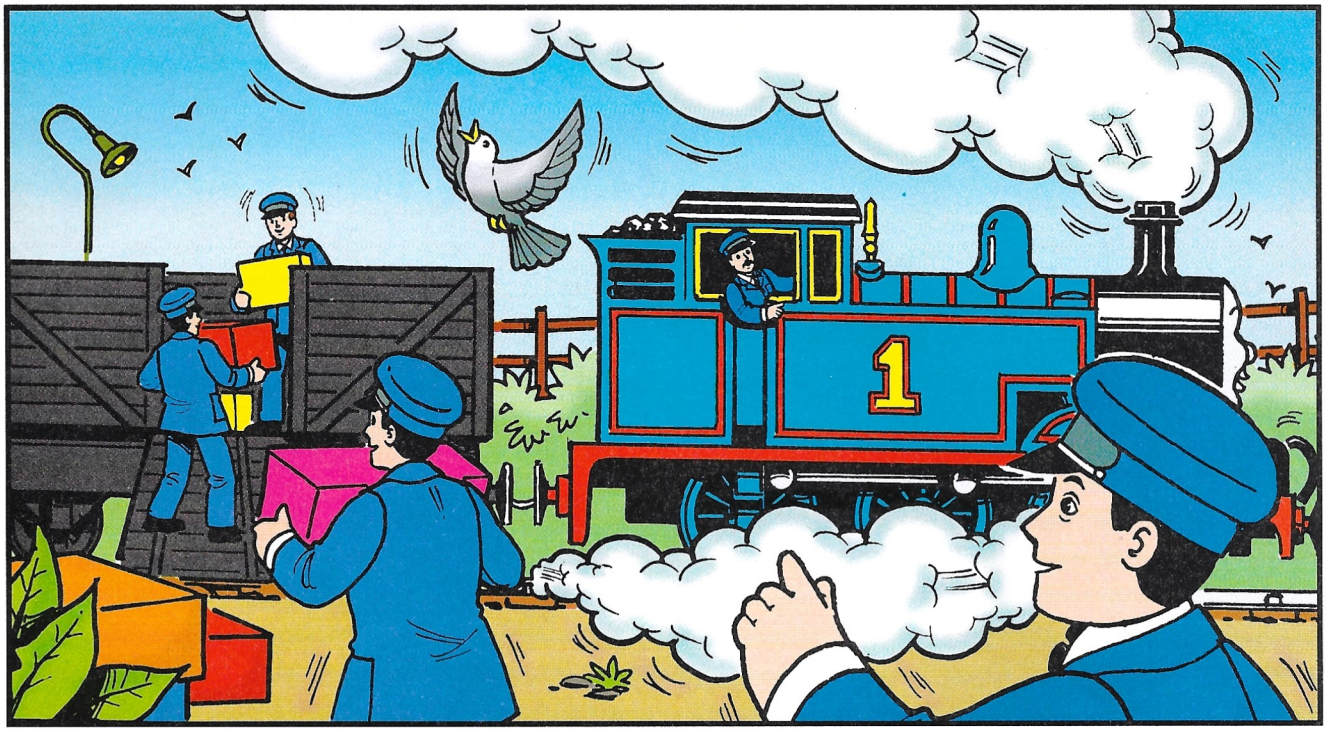
BRITT ALLCROFT

Thomas keeps a secret!



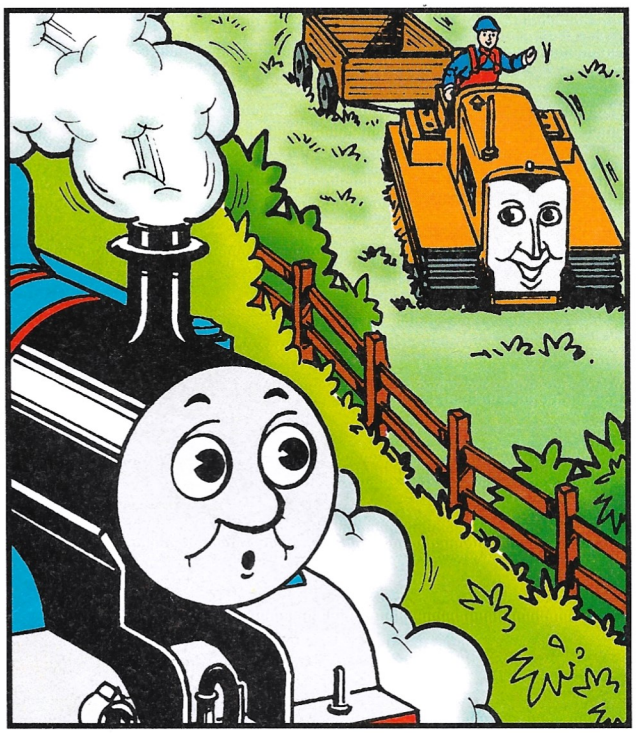
1. One November morning, the Fat Controller spoke to Thomas in the Main Station yard. "Can you keep a secret?" he asked.

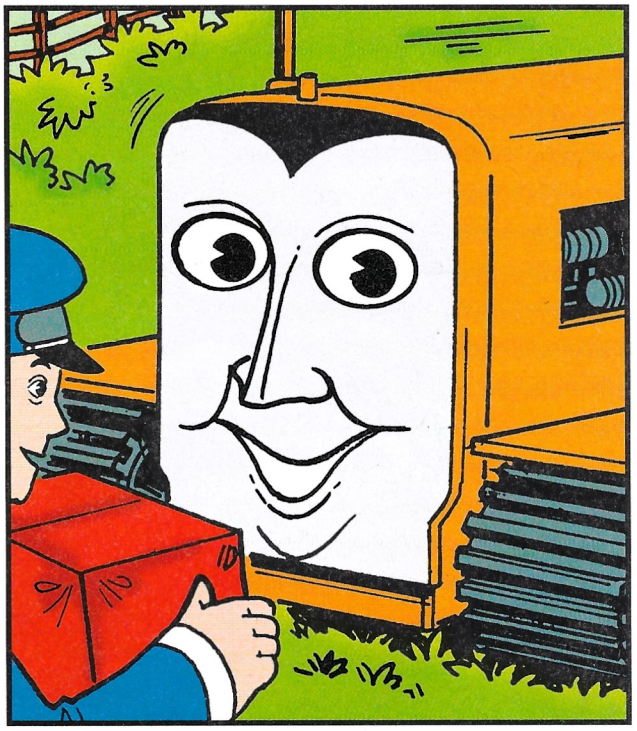
2. "Oh yes, sir!" replied Thomas. Then he was sent on a journey. "Where are you going?" cried James. "It's a secret!" puffed Thomas.



3. James wanted to know what the secret was. So did the other engines when James told them. Meanwhile, Thomas arrived at a factory yard.

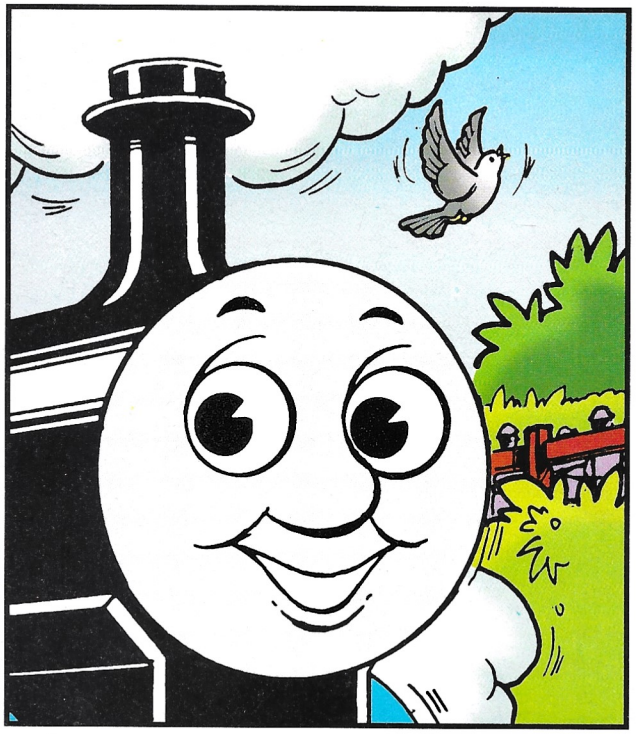
4. Men loaded big boxes into Thomas's trucks then went with him to a siding beside a large field, not far from the Main Station.



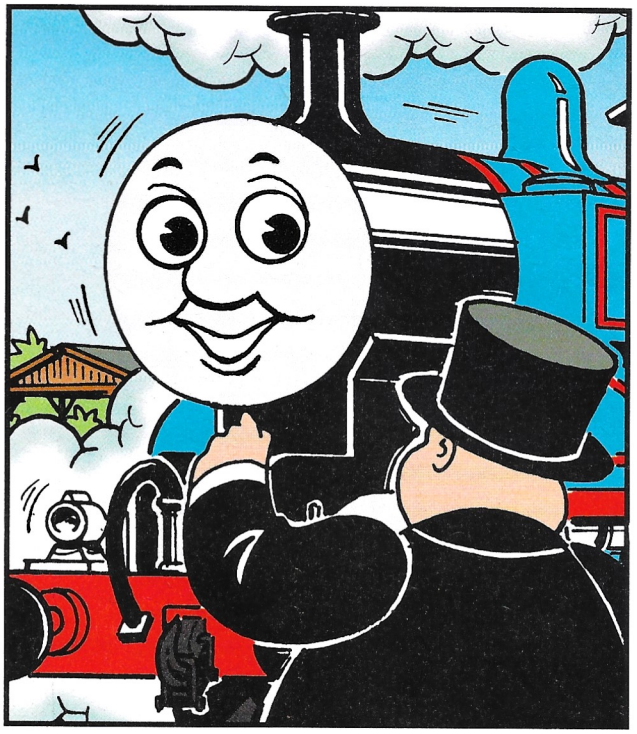


5. Terence the Tractor was waiting. "Hello, Thomas! The Fat Controller asked me to help too!" he said. "I know about the secret!"

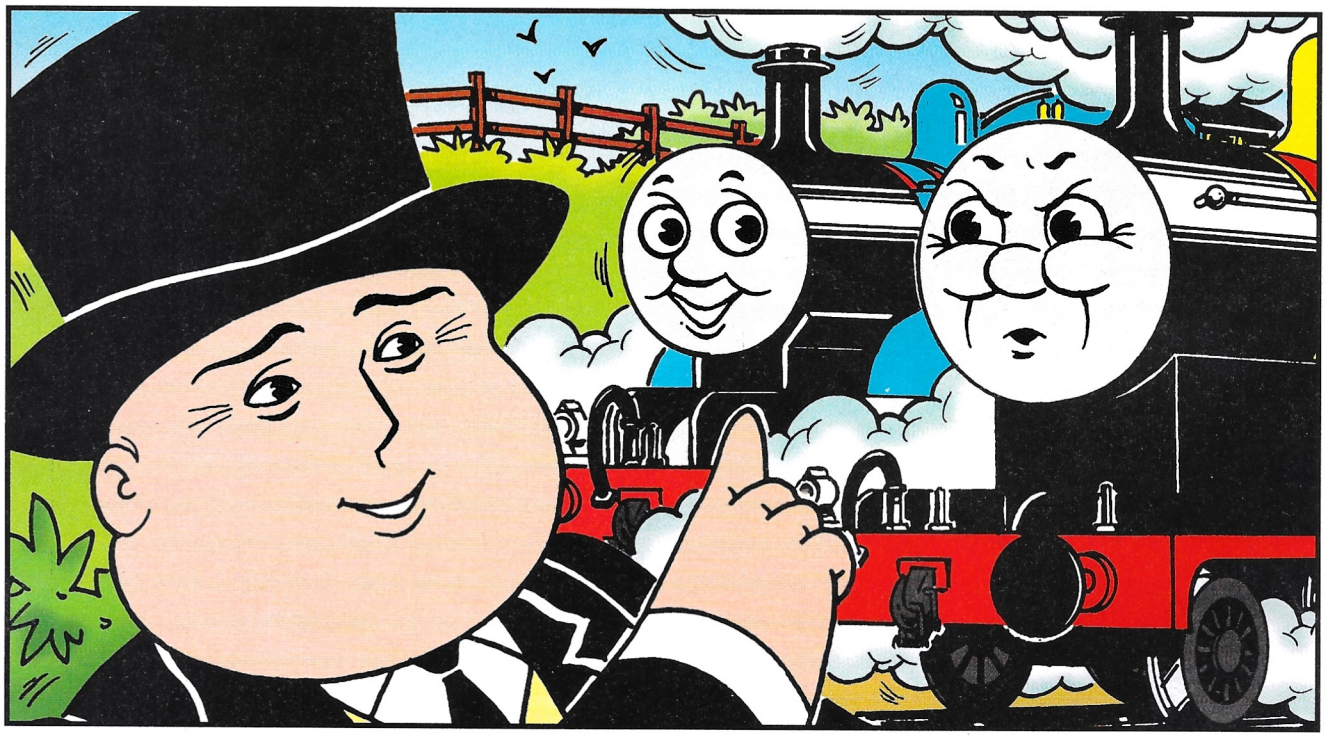
6. The men lifted down all the boxes from Thomas's train. Terence pulled them into the field on a cart. Then they were opened up.



7. The men worked busily and some roped off part of the field. Thomas returned to the Main Station where the Fat Controller waited.



8. "Well done, Thomas!" he said. "You've helped with a special surprise for all the railway staff and their families tonight!"

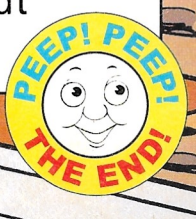


9. That afternoon, the Fat Controller spoke to his staff. Thomas is to take you to a firework display this evening!" he said.

10. "All the engines will see it too," added the Fat Controller. They were very excited. "So that was the secret!" huffed James grumpily.

11. After work, the other engines stayed up late in the yard while Thomas steamed off with Annie and Clarabel. He proudly took the Fat Controller, his staff and their families to the siding at the field nearby. The men from the factory were ready.

12. As they let off the fireworks they had brought, everyone else stood safely clear behind the rope in the field. The display was dazzling! Thomas gasped at a sparkling engine in the sky. "I kept that a secret even from you, Thomas!" said the Fat Controller.



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